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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/15 : CIA-RDP83-00156R000300010051-8

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Honorable Stansfield Turner
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Director:

Executive Order 12065 provides for automatic declassification of classified information after twenty years from the date of its origin, except that information specifically identified by the head of an agency listed in Section 1-2 of the Order and by officials designated by the President. When these officials extend classification beyond twenty years, they must set a date no more than ten years later for declassification or review for declassification. Subsequent reviews must be at no more than ten year intervals. The Order provides that the Director, Information Security Oversight Office may extend the period between reviews for specific categories of documents or information.

We have received from the Secretary of the Army a request for an extension from the prescribed ten to a period of thirty years between reviews for certain information which he has determined requires security protection beyond twenty years. The specific categories are listed in his letter of request (enclosed).

Little, if any, information warrants classification beyond the first ten year extension. However, because the Director of Central Intelligence has statutory responsibility and authority for protection of information relating to intelligence sources and methods, we solicit your opinion as to whether the extension requested is warranted. If you do consider it warranted, we request your views as to the appropriate time interval for subsequent reviews, maximum duration of classification, and, most important, what categories of information should be included.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. BLOUIN
Director
Information Security
Oversight Office

Enclosure